

(d) whether some drought affected areas still exist in the country from where starvation deaths are still reported due to inadequate corrective measures taken by the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the deficiencies and make the entire nation hunger free?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The basic strategy to provide food security and to free the population from hunger consists of :—

- (i) better availability of foodgrains through increased production,
- (ii) maintenance of buffer stocks of foodgrains and distribution through Public Distribution System all over the country,
- (iii) to improve the purchasing power of the vulnerable sections of the society through poverty alleviation programmes.

(c) The following outlays have been proposed in the BE 1997-98:

(i) for the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment :	Rs. 9096 crores
(ii) For subsidy on food and sugar :	Rs. 7500 crores
Total	Rs. 16596 crores

(d) and (e) According to the information received from the State Governments, drought conditions in varying degrees prevail in parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. No confirmed reports of any starvation deaths have yet been received from these State Governments. The Ministry of Agriculture has however requested the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to investigate the *reported starvation deaths* in some parts of Orissa. No report has been received from the NHRC in the matter.

[Translation]

Medicinal Plants

3727. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of the Government to promote cultivation of the medicinal plants in the country;

(b) the types of medicinal plants and the locations thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make up the shortage of medicinal plants such as Anmul, Satavari, Musali, Chiraita and Gugul, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Cultivation of medicinal plants is promoted by the Central Government and the State Governments. The two major schemes of the Central Government for cultivation of medicinal plants are as follows :

Name of the Ministry	Name of the Scheme	Objectives of the Scheme
Health & Family Welfare (Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy)	Central Assistance for Development of Agro-Techniques and cultivation of Medicinal Plants earlier known as Central Scheme for Development and Cultivation of medicinal plants.	The Scheme encourages development of agro-technologies for cultivation of medicinal plants and provides assistance for cultivation of medicinal plants to Government and Semi-Government organisations and institutions.
Environment & Forests (National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board)	Conservation and Development of Non-timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants.	The scheme provides funds to the State Governments for raising plantations including medicinal plants on degraded forest areas and adjoining areas.

(b) According to the studies conducted under an All India Coordinated Project of Ethnobiology funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, about 7500 species of plants are used for medicinal purposes in India. These are distributed in various parts of the country.

(c) The medicinal plants such as Anmul, Satavari, Musali, Chiraita and Gugul etc., have been included in the list of plants identified by the Ministry of Health for cultivation and development on priority.

[English]

UHF Digital Trunking System

3728. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase UHF Digital Trunking System for high-security Delhi Police net;

(b) whether the purchase sub-committee appointed in this connection has recommended not to go for this system; and

(c) if so, the reasons for overruling the recommendations of the purchase sub-committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

3729. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people displaced in Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka due to implementation of the World Bank aided new eco development project;

(b) whether most of these displaced persons belong to SC/ST and other weaker sections of the society; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for the proper rehabilitation of those displaced forest dwellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) In Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka, no displacement of local people has taken place due to the implementation of the World Bank project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central State Farm, Aralam

3730. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central State Farm, Aralam has availed any loan/advance from any Bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present outstanding dues against the farm?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Central State Farm, Aralam has not availed itself of any loan/advance from any Bank.

[Translation]

Aquaculture Development Agency Scheme in M.P.

3731. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government bear half of the expenditure incurred on Aquaculture Development Agency Scheme sponsored by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the amount provided to Madhya Pradesh for this purpose during 1996-97; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on development of freshwater aquaculture through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) is being implemented by the States. Under the scheme, expenditure on all developmental activities such as, construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, first year inputs (fish seed, feed, fertilisers, manures, etc.) running water fish culture, aerators, integrated fish farming, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed mills, salary of incremental staff, cost of vehicle, training of fish farmers, etc. is shared on 50:50 basis by the Government of India and the State Governments. It is the decision of the Government of India that it should share only the developmental costs. Therefore, it does not meet fifty percent of expenditure on base staff salary, maintenance of vehicle and office contingencies.

(b) and (c) The Central assistance given to FFDAs in Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97 is Rs. 100 lakhs.